

MR. I. C. CHACKO : Yes.

Road from Perisseri to Cheriyannadu (Ala trace).

274. * MR. C. K. SANKARA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation had been received as to the condition of the road from Perisseri to Cheriyannadu (Ala trace) that starts from 9/2 Mavelikara-Chengannur Road and meets at 2/4 Kodukulanji Road;

(b) whether it is fit for traffic; and

(c) whether any work has been commenced on this road?

MR. I. C. CHACKO : (a) Yes, with regard to a portion of the road.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Uthinkuzhi bridge has recently been reconstructed.

Toddy and arrack shops auctioned in 1119.

275. * MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU (*Karunagapalli cum Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of (i) toddy shops and (ii) arrack shops auctioned in 1119;

(b) the amount for which (i) toddy shops and (ii) arrack shops were auctioned out in 1119; and

(c) the number of gallons of arrack consumed in 1119 and the number of gallons of toddy in the same year?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (a) (i) 1085 (ii) 418

(b) (i) Rs. 28,34,865

(ii) Rs. 14,12,515

(c) The number of gallons of arrack consumed in 1119 was 3,31,507 bulk gallons. The number of gallons of toddy consumed in 1119 was about 1,25,38,222 gallons.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether these figures show a marked increase in the spread of drink?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Yes, Sir, there is a marked increase in the consumption of arrack.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the Excise Commissioner has taken any effective step to prevent the spread of drink?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Yes, Sir, I have taken control measures. But this is a sign of the times. I must say that the consumption here compares very well with the consumption in the adjoining districts of British India and the State of Cochin.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what steps the Excise Department has taken to prevent the spread of this evil?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: I would refer the honourable member to the Administration Report where mention is made about the action taken against illicit activities like distillation. There is a quota system under which I distribute available arrack to the various licencees of arrack shops in the State, as supply is now insufficient.